

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PROCLAMATION
by the
Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS, research has shown that exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life provides children the most complete form of nutrition, supporting optimal growth and development and reducing incidence of infant illness; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding enhances a child's cognitive development, leading to improved academic performance in later years; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is associated with a lower risk of chronic conditions such as obesity and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, recent studies indicate that women who breastfeed longer have a lower risk of breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, California has been a national leader in reducing barriers to exclusive breastfeeding by enacting legislation protecting the right to breastfeed in public locations and requiring all employers to make a reasonable effort to provide employees adequate break time and private facilities to express breast milk; and

WHEREAS, this year, World Breastfeeding Week is highlighting the importance of working collaboratively with governmental agencies, community organizations and individuals to promote, support and protect breastfeeding; and

WHEREAS, during August, organizations throughout California will celebrate Breastfeeding Awareness Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GRAY DAVIS, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim August 2003 as "Breastfeeding Awareness Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 23rd day of July 2003.



Gray Davis

Governor of California

ATTEST:

Kevin Shelley

Secretary of State